

# Wisconsin Farm to School

Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection

JUNE 17, 2014 |

In today's Wisconsin Farm to School newsletter, you will find:

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Students at Bluff View Intermediate School in Prairie du Chien install their summer garden. See story below about DPI's summer training sessions.

# Deadline approaching for Foods Taste-Testing Sub Grant

Funding is now available for middle schools to participate in taste testing activities and nutrition education during the 2014-2015 school year. The purpose of this grant is to broaden the food experiences and nutrition knowledge of Wisconsin students. Sub-grant awards will be available for approximately 30 school sites to incorporate taste testing activities and nutrition education in the cafeteria and/or classroom. Selected schools will be awarded as much as \$4 per student to participate in sub-grant activities. Selected schools will use funding to conduct four taste tests of Wisconsin-grown produce:

- Tomatoes and/or melons (September/October)
- Apples and/or cranberries (November/December)
- Winter squash and/or sweet potatoes (January/February)
- Salad greens (April/May)

Funds may be used to:

- Purchase food, supplies (e.g. plates, napkins, forks) and small kitchen equipment for cafeteria and/or classroom tasting and demonstration.
- Cover the cost of printing and/or mailing nutrition education materials.
- Pay for staff time associated with the purchasing, preparation, and service of taste test materials and coordinating/conducting nutrition education.

[Application Instructions](#) – please read instructions thoroughly before completing your application.

[Application](#) – must be emailed, faxed, or postmarked by June 20, 2014.

## Department of Public Instruction summer training



**Do you need help incorporating local foods into your school meal program?**

[Buying and Incorporating Local Foods- A 4-hour session for food service managers/directors and others responsible for purchasing.](#)

This Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction summer training will provide an introduction to farm to school programs in Wisconsin and highlight the state's best school resources, including the recently updated WI Farm to School Toolkit for School Nutrition Programs. All attendees will get copy of this manual. The session will provide interactive, problem-solving related farm to school activities, such as finding local foods, food safety, and incorporating local foods into school meal and snack programs.

Additionally, the session will include an overview and activity highlighting local food procurement regulations, best practices and current resources. Attendees will be encouraged to ask questions and share success or challenge stories regarding procuring and incorporating local foods in order to learn from our collective experiences.

## **New resources**

**Wisconsin School Garden Initiative [June Newsletter!](#)**

Check out the June Newsletter from the Wisconsin School Garden Initiative - it has some great suggestions for youth involvement and maintenance at school gardens during summer vacation!

### **Vendor Qualifications for Selling to USDA**

The Agricultural Marketing Service has updated the "Vendor Qualifications Requirements for Prospective Contractors Selling to USDA." The new document, dated June 2014, can be found on the AMS Commodity Purchasing website, [www.ams.usda.gov/commoditypurchasing](http://www.ams.usda.gov/commoditypurchasing), in the Vendor Selling Kit. A direct link to the document follows: [Qualification Requirements for Prospective Vendors, June 2014 \(PDF\)](#)

### **Growing Farm Profits Online Course Resources.**

The Southern Sustainable Agriculture Working Group is providing a range of materials that help farmers grow their farm profits. Many of the educational materials and recordkeeping tools provided here are ones used in the popular Growing Farm Profits classroom trainings. To ensure that these resources have useful practical application in the real world of farming, these resources were largely developed with considerable input from farmers. These resources are FREE.

### **New Legal Guides for Farmers Released by Farm Commons**

We all know how vital good food safety practices are to our community of farmers and eaters. But, bad things can still happen to the best of farmers. Farm Commons has just released a new, detailed guide to the legal aspects of a farm-related food safety incident. The detailed legal explanations explore the background behind the law, and action points help farmers move forward with reducing their legal risk exposure. [Download the food safety legal guide at our website.](#) Or, if video works better, watch our recorded [webinar](#) on the subject.

The beginning of summer also brings the beginning of farm events! From tours to festivals to dinners, farmers are developing new ways to show off their awesome operations. But, these events come with increased legal risk. Fortunately, many of these risks can be managed effectively. Farm Commons' newly updated guide to "Hosting Safer, More Legally Secure On-Farm Events," is now available. While learning about how things can go wrong, farmers and advocates will also find action points to help reduce legal risk exposure while having a great time. [Download the on-farm events legal guide at our website.](#) We have a webinar on the subject, too. Watch it anytime at [www.farmcommons.org/webinars](http://www.farmcommons.org/webinars)

## **Webinars, Conferences and Events**

### **School Garden Symposium**

A School Garden Symposium will take place August 19-20 at Treehaven, located between Tomahawk and Rhinelander. The first 20 registrants will get a \$50 discount thanks to a generous donation from Green and Healthy Schools. This is a great opportunity to learn how to support and sustain school gardens.

### **National Good Food Network Webinar:**

Community-Based Food Business Financing

Thursday, June 19

3:30 - 4:45pm ET (12:30 - 1:45 PT)

[Free! Register Now](#)

In Austin, Texas a group of folks hungry for local food have cracked the code to access capital – looking to the community. Using a cooperative model they are continuing to innovate. Starting with the knowledge gained from such ventures as a co-op grocer, their success led them to experiment with opening a co-op brew pub. This venture has been another striking success, and are now working to open a cooperative food hub.

### **An Introduction to the Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act (PACA)**

Thursday, June 26, 2014

2:00 – 3:00 p.m. Eastern Time

Join us for a live and interactive webinar session, “An Introduction to the [Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act \(PACA\)](#).”

PACA was enacted at the request of the fruit and vegetable industry to promote fair trade in the industry. PACA protects businesses dealing in fresh and frozen fruits and vegetables by establishing and enforcing a code of fair business practices and helping companies resolve business disputes.

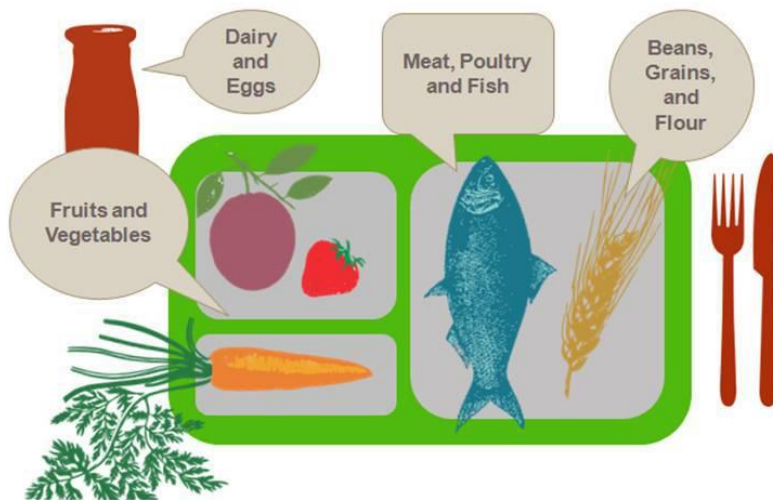
Karla Whalen, Director of the PACA Division, will introduce PACA and provide practical tips on how PACA can help your company resolve everyday business challenges from the interpretation of USDA inspection certificates to protecting your business if your customer does not pay or files for bankruptcy. Following the formal presentation, the webinar will conclude with an interactive question and answer session.

### **The Soil that Feeds Us – Cultivating healthier food and a healthier environment on the farm**

Thursday, June 26, 12 p.m. ET/9 a.m PT

What insights can farmers bring to the public health crisis of antibiotic resistance and the obesity epidemic? In this webinar, we bring together emerging perspectives from farming, soil science and public health professionals. The presenters are Christine McCullum-Gomez, PhD, a registered dietitian and a nationally recognized expert on food, nutrition and environmental health; Healthy Food Action’s **David Wallinga**, MD and the Izaak Walton League’s Agriculture Program Director **Bill Wenzel**. They’ll talk about steps farmers take to improve soil health and resiliency, and the ways in which healthier soil produces healthier food, including links between bacterial flora in the human gut and bacteria in animals, soil and the broader environment. The presenters will also discuss how a broad constituency from farming, public health and the food movement can influence federal conservation programs for conventional and non-conventional growers. To REGISTER:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6085491554063313921>



### **Afterschool Meals Matter**

[Applying for the CACFP Afterschool Meal Program and Managing Paperwork](#)

Wednesday, July 16, 2014 at 2:00 PM eastern

Join FRAC to hear how advocates, sponsors, and sites are managing the application process and paperwork required for the CACFP Afterschool Meal Program. Once the initial application is complete and an effective system of administering the program is in place, sponsors could find the implementation of their afterschool meals program to be beneficial both for their organizations and the communities they serve.

### **Summer Meals Matter**

[Engaging Teens and Parents](#)

Tuesday, July 1, 2014 at 1:00 PM eastern

Summer meals are great ways to engage the entire family. Join us as sponsors from all around the country share how they build relationships with parents and teens. Whether it's through enrichment programs designed for different age groups, offering parent meals, or building relationships with community partners, advocates and sponsors will share their best practices for engaging the whole family in local summer meal programs.

## **Farm to School Job Openings**

### **National Farm to School Network is hiring!**

We are expanding our communications shop at the national staff level of NFSN. As part of addressing the goals and activities identified in our recently completed strategic plan, we are moving forward with increasing our capacity for communications. For more information on our new position focused on external communications, a Public Relations and Outreach Manager, click [here](#).

### **Space to Grow: Greening Chicago Schoolyards Positions Open**



Healthy Schools Campaign and Openlands currently have openings for two positions for Space to Grow: Greening Chicago Schoolyards. Space to Grow is transforming Chicago schoolyards into green spaces that address the city's storm water management and basement flooding needs. Of course this also provides students, their families and the broader community with opportunities for active play and space for physical education, outdoor learning, gardening, environmental education and art.

The Project Manager, who will be housed at HSC, will work closely with the project leadership team to coordinate this effort. The School Planning Coordinator, who will be housed at Openlands, will work directly with school and community members to design, install, and support the ongoing use of redesigned schoolyards. Additional information and the application can be found [here](#).

**Farm to School Program Coordinator, Oregon Department of Agriculture – Portland**  
Oregon's Department of Agriculture Market Access and Certification program area has one open full-time, permanent, classified position located in Portland. This recruitment will close at Midnight on June 25, 2014. To see the complete announcement, please click the following link. [Operations & Policy Analyst 3 \(Farm to School Program Coordinator\)](#)

**Winnebago County, Wisconsin Farm to School AmeriCorps**

We are recruiting a full-time AmeriCorps Farm to School Member in Winnebago County. re:TH!NK, a healthy living coalition and program of the Winnebago County Health Department, seeks candidates to fill a full-time AmeriCorps Farm to School position. The AmeriCorps member will work with school districts in Winnebago County to expand the purchase of local seasonal foods in school meal programs and provide student education about healthy foods and school gardens.

**Compensation:** AmeriCorps members will receive a modest living allowance, student loan deferment and an education award at the end of service. Reimbursement is provided for training and travel to participating communities.

**Application Procedure and Deadline:** Please submit a resume, two professional references, and a letter of interest including a statement explaining why you think Farm to School is important for Wisconsin schools by **June 27, 2014** (or until filled) to Sarah Wright, [swright@co.winnebago.wi.us](mailto:swright@co.winnebago.wi.us). For more information call (920) 232-3025 or for a full position description visit <http://rethinkwinnebago.org/>.

**To Read More About Farm to School or AmeriCorps Initiatives in Wisconsin, Please Visit:**

[http://datcp.wi.gov/Business/Buy\\_Local\\_Buy\\_Wisconsin/Farm\\_to\\_School\\_Program/index.aspx](http://datcp.wi.gov/Business/Buy_Local_Buy_Wisconsin/Farm_to_School_Program/index.aspx)

**Wisconsin Farm to School AmeriCorps Placement**

Northland Pines Farm to School Program, with district offices in Eagle River, is currently recruiting a half-time AmeriCorps Community Outreach member. Our 2014-2015 program year will start August 15. The successful applicant is expected to attend a mandatory AmeriCorps member training from Tuesday, August 18, through Thursday, August 21. Please see the attached recruitment poster and position description for details and contact information. **Application Deadline: July 15, 2014**

### **Wisconsin Farm to School AmeriCorps Member at Goodwill NCW**

**Goodwill Grows** is one of 24 Goodwill Industries of North Central Wisconsin, Inc. programs. The mission of Goodwill NCW is Elevating People, Transforming Communities. Our program supports this mission by increasing access to affordable, fresh food while creating opportunities for growth and learning. Our goal is to increase food security for both individuals and the communities we serve. Fresh, local food is a powerful vehicle for positive social change, and by growing together we will create a happier, healthier community.

**Compensation:** AmeriCorps members will receive a modest living allowance, student loan deferment, and an education award at the end of service. Limited reimbursement will be provided for travel to participating communities and training.

**Application Procedure and Deadline:** All interested applicants, please submit a resume, two professional references, and a letter of interest including a statement explaining why you think farm-to-school is important for Wisconsin schools by **July 18, 2014** to Alex Tyink at [atyink\\_gw@gwicc.org](mailto:atyink_gw@gwicc.org) or via post to Goodwill Grows, 1800 Appleton Road, Menasha, WI 54952. Emailed applications are preferred. For more information email Alex or call at 920-850-7213.

**To learn more about farm to school in Wisconsin, please visit:**

[http://datcp.wi.gov/Business/Buy\\_Local\\_Buy\\_Wisconsin/Farm\\_to\\_School\\_Program/index.aspx](http://datcp.wi.gov/Business/Buy_Local_Buy_Wisconsin/Farm_to_School_Program/index.aspx)

## **Farm to School Media Mentions**

[Read all about](#) the pancake breakfast hosted by the **Ashland Farm to School Program!**

The **Onalaska School Garden** was selected as the "Program of the Week" by the Edible Schoolyard. Read more [here!](#)

## **Farm to School Funding Opportunities**

### **CDC Grant Opportunities**

CDC is announcing the availability of new Funding Opportunity Announcements (FOAs) to advance the nation's chronic-disease-prevention and health-promotion efforts.



**(DP14-1417) Partnership to Improve Community Health**

Partnerships to Improve Community Health (PICH) will fund and support a new 3-year, \$50 million per year initiative to improve health and reduce the burden of chronic diseases through evidence- and practice-based strategies to create or strengthen healthy environments that make it easier for people to make healthy choices and take charge of their health.

**(DP14-1418) National Implementation and Dissemination for Chronic Disease Prevention**

This 3-year, \$10 million per year initiative will support between four and eight national organizations and their chapters/affiliates in building and strengthening community infrastructure to implement population-based strategies to improve the health of communities

**(DP14-1419PPHF14) Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health (REACH)**

Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health, or REACH, focuses on racial and ethnic communities experiencing health disparities. This 3-year, \$35 million per year project will support policy, system, and environmental improvements in those communities to improve health and reduce health disparities

**(DP14-1422) State and Local Public Health Actions to Prevent Obesity, Diabetes and Heart Disease**

State and Local Public Health Actions is a new 4-year, \$70 million per year program that builds on efforts initiated in 2013 and intensifies work in 18 to 22 state or major city health departments. The goals are to prevent obesity, diabetes, heart disease and stroke and reduce health disparities among adults through a combination of community and health system intervention

**(DP14-1421PPHF14): A Comprehensive Approach to Good Health and Wellness in Indian Country**

This 5-year, \$14 million per year initiative aims to prevent heart disease, diabetes, stroke and associated risk factors in American Indian tribes and Alaskan Native villages through a holistic approach to population health and wellness.

**Department of Health and Human Service: Healthy Food Financing Initiative**

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) released a [Funding Opportunity Announcement \(FOA\) for fiscal year \(FY\) 2014](#) for Community Development Corporations (CDCs) under the Healthy Food Financing Initiative (HFFI). For organizations that aren't CDCs, partnering with a CDC could make these funds accessible.

A total of \$9.5 million is available, and the maximum award amount is \$800,000. No match is required for this grant program. Examples of OCS HFFI-funded projects include financing the construction of grocery stores, providing direct assistance to farmers, supporting urban and rural farmers markets and retail markets, expanding existing food distribution

businesses, and supporting food business entrepreneurs.

**The deadline to apply is July 21, 2014.**